

**Child and Family State Collaborative
Minutes for 3/23/01**

**Next Meeting Friday April 27, 2001 time: 9 AM to 11 AM
3509 Haworth Drive, Raleigh; Suite 300 Conference Room**

Present: Martha Kaufman (CFS), Joann Lamm (DSS), Austin Connors (CFSA), Brad Trotter (MHDDSAS), Alicia Graham, (DD), Michelle Cotton (MHDDSAS), Lee Lewis (MH/DD/SAS), Charles Pryzant (CFS), Sally Cameron (NCPA/CPDMI), Jennifer Mahan (MHA/NC), Joel Rosch (GCC), Joan Debruyne (CFS), Bill Hussey (NCMHPAC), Carol Duncan (NCC), Connie Hawkins (ECAC), Stephanie Alexander (CFS), Carol Robertson (DMA), Beth Melcher (NAMI), Donn Hargrove (DJJDP), Susan Robinson (CFS), Mark O'Donnell (CFS)

Welcome and Introductions

Meeting materials and handouts distributed:

Beyond Decategorization: Defining Barriers and Potential Solutions to Creating Effective Comprehensive, Community-based Support Systems for Children and Families by Marin E. Orland and Ellen Foley

Draft: The NC System of Care State Wraparound Pool Policies & Procedures for the At Risk Children's Program

Family Involvement

Martha Kaufman gave background on a meeting that involved 47 family members who discussed the benefits of System of Care from across the state.

Joann Lamm spoke about how family members met with DSS on March 16th to express their issues and to reinforce the System of Care. She indicated that hearing the families speak about their needs and positive experiences with System of Care heightened awareness of why SOC is so important for families and served to redouble DSS's commitment to this approach.

Connie Hawkins spoke on the need for financial support and sustainability of the families' local organizations and the importance of applying for the \$60,000 (federal) Statewide Family Network grant application due May 24th. WE CARE (a chapter of the National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health) has indicated its strong interest in supporting this application, through a letter from its Executive Director (Sandra Spencer). The statewide Family Collaborative hopes to employ one of the family members with the fund. Also, the NC Planning and Advisory Council (overseeing the State's federal Block Grant plan) remains committed to using a portion of the Federal Block grant dollars to pay for a position for a family member this Fall. The families have expressed again their concern that DPI is a weak link in the SOC. On May 3rd forty families are to meet with Secretary Buell to share information about their experiences 'before and after' SOC.

Who is missing from the table?

Diann Irwin has been participating and she represents Special Education. The Group agreed that school participation is key and that there is a need to have additional representation from DPI relating to those children who are not classified as Special Education students. It was recommended that Priscilla Maynor, Assistant Superintendent, DPI, be invited to join the State Collaborative as well. Martha will pursue.

Risk Pool Status Update

The original purpose of the risk pool (primarily to cover high-end services costs for residential placements), and the rationale for the Child and Family Advisory Workgroup's (formerly known as the Risk Pool Committee) and Collaborative Sub group's work to alter the approach was described, i.e., to provide broader opportunities for communities to build nonresidential service capacity to divert children from inappropriate DSS custody or institutionalization. The revised protocol was distributed. Members were anxious to proceed with next steps for implementation of the broader approach, especially to address proposals already submitted by communities. However, it appears that these funds may have been distributed in recent Area Program allocations. Participants were very concerned that this may have occurred, discussed implications, the need to reconfigure a pool of funds for this purpose, and the importance of avoiding future 'disconnects' between programmatic planning and budget decisions.

The Group recommended that before the money is reallocated in SFY 2001-02, conditions should be placed on the funds to build in greater flexibility, to set aside a state-level pool of funds, and to link and coordinate budget decisions to program needs.

General Discussion

Martha informed the group that she will attend a meeting with Secretary Buell and Dr. Robarge to give a brief presentation on SOC in preparation for the Secretary's meeting with the Family Collaborative in early May. Participants asked that Secretary Buell be made aware of the positive work occurring within the State Collaborative and the importance of their work to share responsibility and accountability in implementation of the At Risk and Residential Treatment programs for children through a SOC approach. A key aspect for success will be for the Collaborative to be actively involved in program and budget issues, especially since implementation of services through these funds crosses traditional agency 'lines' and involves the active participation of family and other stakeholders.

Brad Trotter noted that he has been in the process of developing a proposal with OmniVision to seek Risk Pool/Wraparound Pool funds to implement therapeutic foster homes for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. The Group agreed that the "startup" funds for this project is a great need.

Update on the Implementation of the At Risk Children's Program

Charles Pryzant discussed the concept of implementing ARC in the big picture of System of Care. The SOC approach will help ARC be successfully implemented. He reminded the State Collaborative that a representative Sub Group meets on Fridays to discuss the daily implementation issues and better ways to convey support for the local

Community Collaboratives. The CFS portion of the DHHS/DMH/DD/SAS web site is being reconstructed to promote access to best practice information, frequently asked questions and other items relevant to successful implementation, with the aim to have links among the agencies. The web site should be helpful to the Child and Family Teams and Community Collaboratives to communicate new information and resources quickly.

Charles described the issue of training as a critical, but challenging task (particularly under the travel freeze) to help the Community Collaborative and Child and Family Teams through a step by step process on how to get started and to have technical assistance in the field. Regional Service Managers, along with their counterparts from the other agencies will be instrumental in this technical assistance role. It was recommended that a chat room might be used for training with the regions, similar to an approach DPI is utilizing.

Martha Kaufman thanked Diann Irwin, who made available 15 blank tapes from the former Willie M. program to copy brief System of Care videos so that Regional staff can use as information tools for Community Collaboratives.

Martha Kaufman informed the Group that communities in almost every area program catchment area across the state have initiated their Community Collaborative meetings.

Stephanie Alexander spoke on the MOA and how it is to include more agencies such as DPI and others.

Resource Development Strategies

There are a number of federal grant announcements for human service area becoming available. In order to successfully pursue, there is need for a team of grant writers

May 23 has been designated as Coalition 2001 Day and all agencies have been invited to this event on the lawn.

Mark O'Donnell discussed the statewide SOC conference in September sponsored by Center for Mental Health Services grant.

On Wednesday the 28th there will be a meeting with Karen Hammonds Blanks regarding issues of At Risk Children with DD.

Brief Updates by Participants

Lee Lewis noted that the Substance Abuse area is concerned that the SOC initiative needs to better use Substance Abuse language. Many children with dual diagnoses come into facilities highly medicated. Kids can be detoxed prior to admission. He recommended creating a doorway *at the beginning* to add Substance Abuse personnel to Child and Family teams, taking care to address confidentiality issues that are particular to SA.

Martha Kaufman adjourned the meeting with a reminder to meet again on April 27th from 9 AM to 11 AM.

